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Supreme Court, U. S.
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IN THE

Supreme Court of The United States

October Term, 1972

No. 72-1091

HONORABLE FRANK J. BATTISTI,
Chief Judge, United States
District Court for the Northern
District of Ohio,
Petitioner,

and

GEORGE S. HEITZLER, JR.,
Intervenor below,
Petitioner,

vs.

C. WILLIAM O'NEILL, Chief Justice,
LOUIS J. SCHNEIDER, JR., Associate Justice,
J. J. P. CORRIGAN, Associate Justice,
LLOYD O. BROWN, Associate Justice,
THOMAS M. HERBERT, Associate Justice,
LEONARD J. STERN, Associate Justice,
ROBERT E. LEACH, Associate Justice,
all members of the bench of the
Supreme Court of Ohio
State House Annex
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Defendants.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

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HONORABLE C. WILLIAM O'NEILL,
Chief Justice of Ohio, et al.,

Respondents.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR

THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

Petitioner, George S. Heitzler, Jr., intervenor below and real party in interest, respectfully prays that a Writ of Certiorari issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit entered in this proceeding on November 10, 1972.

OPINION BELOW

The *Per Curiam* opinion and order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, as yet unreported, is set out in the appendix at pp. A-43 to A-47.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit was rendered on November 10, 1972. A prompt Motion to Stay the Execution and the Enforcement of Writ of Mandamus and Order Pending the Filing of a Petition for Writ of Certiorari was filed on November 13, 1972 and by Order entered the same day, said Motion was denied. (Appendix, pp. A-49. This Petition is filed within ninety (90) days of the date of entry of the judgment. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1254(1), and S.Ct. Rules 19-27, among others.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Did the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit so fundamentally misapply the "Abstention Doctrine" so as to divest the Federal District Court below of its lawful and proper jurisdiction already assumed in a federal civil rights suit seeking federal relief from state bar association disciplinary proceedings against a state judge when such disciplinary proceedings were allegedly being conducted in flagrant violation of those constitutional and civil rights protected by 42 U.S.C. §1983 and 28 U.S.C. §1343 (3) and (4).

2. Was the venue for the federal civil rights action based upon 28 U.S.C. §1392(a) proper in a case where the individual justices of the Ohio Supreme Court are

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named as defendants, and where two of the individual justices of the Ohio Supreme Court reside in the Northern District of Ohio, and the balance of them reside in the Southern District of Ohio, where the main office of the Supreme Court of Ohio is situated in Columbus, Ohio, in the Southern District, and where by statute the Ohio Supreme Court is authorized to sit and act anywhere in the State of Ohio, and where the suit is brought in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELIED UPON

42 U.S.C. §1983 Civil action for deprivation of rights:

> "Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceedings for redress."

28 U.S.C. §1343(3) and (4) Civil rights and elective franchise:

> "The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of any civil action authorized by law to be commenced by any person:
>
> "(1) ***
>
> "(2) ***
>
> "(3) To redress the deprivation, under color of any State law, statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage, of any right, privilege

or immunity secured by the Constitution of the United States or by any Act of Congress providing for equal rights of citizens or of all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States;

"(4) To recover damages or to secure equitable or other relief under any Act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights, including the right to vote."

28 U.S.C. §1392(a) Defendants or property in different districts in same State:

"(a) Any civil action, not of a local nature, against defendants residing in different districts in the same State, may be brought in any of such districts."

Title 25, Ohio Revised Code §2503.34 Special and Adjourned Terms:

"The supreme court may hold special or adjourned terms at such times and places as a majority of the judges determines. If a special term is held elsewhere than at Columbus, thirty days' notice of the time and place thereof must be given by publication in the newspapers printed in Columbus. The court may make necessary orders for the return of process and the transmission of papers and files of the court to and from the place of holding a special term."

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A. Proceedings in the State Court.

Case No. 168

On August 11, 1971 three members of the Cincinnati Bar Association filed a Complaint with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio reciting certain alleged acts on the part of George S. Heitzler, Jr., Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Division of Domestic Relations) of Cincinnati, Ohio, which allegedly constituted grounds for misconduct as a judge assigning alleged violations of certain Canons of Judicial Ethics. Judge Heitzler timely filed an Answer denying the charges.

Then on October 4, 1971, two additional charges were leveled against Judge Heitzler in a Supplemental Complaint filed by the same three members of the Cincinnati Bar Association. By Supplemental Answer Judge Heitzler denied these additional charges.

The Complaint and Answer and the Supplemental Complaint and Supplemental Answer designated as Case No. 168 came on for hearing before three members of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline designated as the Hearing Panel. The hearings lasted approximately six days during which time testimony was taken and transcribed.

Then the Hearing Panel, without notice to the Petitioner, filed their findings of fact and recommendations with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline on August 4, 1972, thereby depriving Peti-

tioner of his right to file a brief on the merits concerning the charges filed against him in Case No. 168. The Board of Commissioners filed its findings of fact and recommendations with the Secretary of the Board on September 1, 1972, also without notice to Petitioner. On the evening of September 1, 1972, Petitioner and his counsel read about the conduct of the Hearing Panel and the Board in the newspapers; no formal notice was received by Petitioner from the Board or the Secretary of the Board until September 5, 1972. After repeated requests by counsel for Petitioner, and Petitioner himself, Judge Heitzler was finally able to obtain a copy of the findings of fact and recommendations of the Hearing Panel on September 20, 1972, approximately forty five days after they had been filed with the Board and approximately nineteen days after the Board of Commissioners had already acted. Inasmuch as Petitioner was not given the right to be heard, and was not given the right to file a brief on the merits of the charges against him, then this conduct constituted a clear violation of procedural due process.

On August 4, 1972 at the meeting held to consider Judge Heitzler's case, only a two and one half hour meeting was held and other matters than Petitioner's were presented. Only fifteen of the seventeen members of the Board attended. As well, one member of the Board, although present, allegedly did not vote, nor discuss the proceedings in this case. This Board member, Gordon Scherer, had testified against Petitioner in the disciplinary hearings in this case, had played a key role in launching the grand jury proceedings against Petitioner seeking to have him indicted, and was also critical of the prosecuting attorney when the grand jury failed to indict Petitioner. The very pres-

ence of a person of such obvious bias and intense dislike for the Petitioner raises grave constitutional questions concerning the impartiality of the Board proceedings.

Furthermore, three members of that same Board who sat in judgment in Case No. 168, had also heard evidence in Case No. 172, a companion case involving Petitioner, but based on different charges. (Case No. 172 was later dismissed, after Petitioner was indefiinitely suspended from the practice of law.) Further, the charges in Case No. 172 grew out of and were a direct result of the Board's investigation in Case No. 168. As such, the Board of Commissioners was improperly influenced and prejudicially and unconstitutionally constituted. As well, Petitioner submits that no member of the Board, let alone seventeen members of the Board there present could have read the 1408 page transcript during the 2½ hour meeting. As such, the Board abrogated its duties and responsibilities and unconstitutionally and unlawfully delegated their authority to the Hearing Panel.

Finally, the procedure regarding the factual findings and recommendations adopted in the instant case was likewise violative of due process because the ultimate decision rendered by the Ohio Supreme Court was based on double and sometimes triple hearsay. The three-man Hearing Panel alone takes the testimony which may include hearsay. The Panel in turn renders its findings to a Board who makes a hearsay report to the Ohio Supreme Court—a process which is an integral part of the statutory scheme for the disciplining of attorneys in the State of Ohio, which it itself unconstitutional.

On September 1, 1972, the Supreme Court of Ohio entered an Order directing Judge Heitzler to show cause why the recommendations of the Board of Commissioners should not be confirmed and a disciplinary Order entered. Then on September 7, 1972 the Supreme Court of Ohio rendered a *Per Curiam* opinion and on the next day entered on Order without hearing or notice suspending Judge Heitzler from exercising any further judicial duties until the Supreme Court of Ohio rendered its decision and judgment in the matter. A retired Judge was temporarily appointed to fill the vacancy.

On September 18, 1972, Judge Heitzler, *pro se*, filed a Motion to Reconsider and for a hearing concerning his removal as Judge. The motion was not granted.

On October 17, 1972, newly obtained counsel for Judge Heitzler filed a Motion to Quash and Dismiss the Findings of Fact of the Board of Commissioners and to Dismiss and Recuse each Board member. On October 20, 1972, Judge Heitzler filed his formal objections to the Findings of Fact and Recommendations with the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Case No. 172

On February 17, 1972, the same three members of the Cincinnati Bar Association who had previously filed charges against Judge Heitzler in Case No. 168, filed a new set of charges with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Judge Heitzler filed a timely answer denying the charges leveled against him and challenged the jurisdictional basis of the charges, pleaded double jeopardy and pleaded estoppel.

A Motion to Dismiss filed by Judge Heitzler was denied and the Complaint and Answer came on for hearing before a Hearing Panel on May 31, 1972. Testimony was taken and transcribed.

The Cincinnati Bar Association filed its Brief on the merits of the alleged charges against Judge Heitzler and the Brief on behalf of Judge Heitzler was due within a very short time thereafter.

The above factual recital constituted the posture of the state court proceedings in both Case No. 168 and Case No. 172 just prior to the institution of the federal civil rights claim detailed below.

B. Proceedings in the Federal Courts.

On October 24, 1972, Judge Heitzler filed a verified Complaint with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio invoking jurisdiction under the Civil Rights Act embodied in 28 U.S.C. §1343 (3) and (4) for numerous flagrant violations under color of state authority of those civil rights protected by 42 U.S.C. §1983 (Appendix pp. A-1 to A-29). Named as parties defendant in those proceedings were all the individual justices of the Ohio Supreme Court. Also filed was a Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order, a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction. (Appendix pp. A-31 to A-35).

On October 25, 1972, the Temporary Restraining Order was granted *ex parte* which restrained the individual justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio and all persons acting in concert with them from proceeding further in either Case No. 168 or Case No. 172. (Appendix, pp. A-37 to A-39). The hearing on the

Motion for a Preliminary Injunction was set for November 2, 1972.

On October 27, 1972, counsel for the individual justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio filed a Petition for a Writ of Mandamus and/or Prohibition with the United States Court of Appeals, or a single Judge thereof, praying that the temporary restraining Order be vacated and that the District Judge be directed to refrain from taking any further action in the case then pending in the District Court. Counsel also prayed that a stay be granted pending action on the Petition for Writ of Mandamus and/or Prohibition.

The same day, October 27, 1972, one Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, Judge John W. Peck, *ex parte* granted a stay of all further proceedings in the United States District Court and set the hearing for the Petition for Writ of Mandamus and/or Prohibition on November 16, 1972. (Appendix, pp A-41-42). Judge Peck apparently felt that the issues raised in the State proceedings were identical with those raised in the Federal proceedings and therefore, this case was a proper one for the application of the doctrine of abstention.

Notably, the oral argument in the Supreme Court of Ohio was scheduled for November 15, 1972, and the oral argument on the Petition for Writ of Prohibition and/or Mandamus was scheduled for November 16, 1972.

On November 1, 1972, Judge Heitzler filed a Motion to Intervene in the proceedings before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, which Motion was later granted. He also filed a Motion and Brief in support thereof to

dissolve, vacate, dismiss, or modify the Stay Order previously entered by Judge Peck and additionally moved for an oral hearing on that motion.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, by *per curiam* opinion filed November 10, 1972, six days prior to the hearing originally scheduled, without the benefit of notice or oral argument, or brief directed to the propriety, or lack of it, concerning the Petition for Mandamus and/or Prohibition, granted the Mandamus as prayer for and directed the United States District Court to vacate and withdraw the temporary restraining order and to dismiss the action for lack of venue. (Appendix, pp. A-43 to A-47).

A prompt motion to stay the enforcement of the Writ of Mandamus was denied by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on November 13, 1972. Application for a stay of execution pending the filing of a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari was next made to Justice Potter Stewart who in turn referred Judge Heitzler's application for a stay to Justice Byron R. White. By notation dated November 14, 1972, the motion to stay, pending the filing of a Petition for Writ of Certiorari, was denied. The way was thus clear for oral argument in the Supreme Court of Ohio as to the merits of the charges embodied in Case No. 168. Oral argument was then held in the Supreme Court of Ohio and on December 15, 1972, Judge Heitzler was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law.

It is the *per curiam* opinion rendered by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals filed on November 10, 1972, granting the Writ of Mandamus, thereby divesting the Federal Court of its lawful jurisdiction and clear-

ing the way for the Supreme Court of Ohio to rule on the merits of Case No. 168, that necessitates this Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

This case raises grave questions of federal law and substantial constitutional rights which Petitioner submits have been decided contrary to settled decisions of this Honorable Court. As well, this case assumes nationwide importance because of the uncertainties inherent in those bar disciplinary proceedings based on oblique standards of due process. Also of great significance is the fact that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals by its immediate action prevented the District Court from even taking evidence concerning the allegations that numerous federal civil rights of Petitioner had been violated and thereby ordered the District Court to divest itself of its lawful jurisdiction already assumed.

This case presents an excellent opportunity to revaluate the status of lawyers as "first class citizens" *Spevack* v. *Klein*, 385 U.S. 511 (1967) when they are subjected to grievous violations of procedural due process in quasi criminal proceedings, *In Re Ruffalo*, 390 U.S. 544 (1968) and seek federal injunctive relief via the Civil Rights statute, 42 U.S.C. §1983 in light of the recent decisions of this Honorable Court in *Younger* v. *Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971) and especially in light of the most recent civil rights decision of *Mitchum* v. *Foster*, 407 U.S. 225 (1972). Finally, this case presents a perfect situation for this Honorable Court to speak definitively concerning the construction of 28 U.S.C. §1392(a) concerning venue involving defendants in different districts.

I.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit So Fundamentally Misapplied the Abstention Doctrine As to Divest the Federal District Court Below of Its Lawful and Proper Jurisdiction Already Assumed in a Federal Civil Rights Suit Seeking Federal Relief from State Bar Association Disciplinary Proceedings Against a State Judge When Such Disciplinary Proceedings Were Allegedly Being Conducted in Flagrant Violation of Those Constitutional and Civil Rights Protected by 42 U. S. C. §1983 and 28 U. S. C. §1343 (3) and (4).

The precise issue here presented is whether the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit was correct when it held,:

> ". . . that the issuance of a temporary restraining order by the District Judge under the facts of this case was improvident, and that the District Court should have abstained from interfering with the pending proceedings in the Supreme Court of Ohio." (*Per Curiam* Opinion of the Sixth Circuit, Appendix, pp. A-43 to A-47).

Petitioner submits that the "Abstention Doctrine" has no applicability in a case such as this one where compelling legal and factual reasons mandate federal intervention despite pending state proceedings.

Of paramount importance is the fact that the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is an unprecedented action, ordered a Federal District Judge to disclaim jurisdiction which it clearly had and ordered that Federal District Judge to abstain in a case, without even giving the District Judge the opportunity to hear or decide in the first instance whether he should abstain.

It must be noted that the Court of Appeals placed great reliance upon the decision of this Honorable Court in *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co.* v. *Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers*, 398 U.S. 281 (1970). Petitioner will readily concede that the *Atlantic Coast Line* case, a labor relations case concerning injunctive relief from certain picketing, correctly stated that:

> "Any doubts as to the propriety of a federal injunction against state proceedings should be resolved in favor of permitting the state courts to proceed in an orderly fashion to finally determine the controversy." 398 U.S. 281, 297.

Conversely, the Respondents herein must concede that unlike the *Atlantic* case, the jurisdictional rationale of the instant case is one for the deprivation of numerous civil rights under color of state authority—an issue jurisdictionally and fundamentally quite different than a labor relations problem as was presented in *Atlantic, supra.*

Furthermore, Respondents must likewise concede that the decision in *Atlantic, supra*, turned on whether or not the federal injunction over the state court injunction against picketing fell within one or more of the three explicit statutory exceptions to the Anti Injunction Act (28 U.S.C. §2283). Ultimately Justice Black held that the federal injunction over the state court proceedings in the *Atlantic* case was not "to protect or effectuate" the District Court's judgment nor was it "necessary in aid of" the District Court's jurisdiction. 398 U.S. at 284-285. The third exception to the Anti Injunction Act, viz. where the injunctive relief is "expressly authorized by Act of Congress" was not even raised. 398 U.S. at 282-283, and 288.

However, this Honorable Court has unanimously held in the very recent decision of *Mitchum* v. *Foster*, 407 U.S. 225 (1972) that the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §1983 do in fact constitute an "expressly authorized" exception to the Anti Injunction Act and in such civil rights cases then injunctive relief over state court proceedings is not barred by 28 U.S.C. §2283. Thus, what little vitality the *Atlantic* case once had as precedent has been entirely supplanted by the wisdom of the *Mitchum* decision in civil rights litigation such as the instant case.

Therefore, the issue in the case at bar now deals squarely with the applicability, or lack of it, of the "Abstention Doctrine" *per se* in a federal civil rights case brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983 and 28 U.S.C. §1343 (3) and (4), seeking relief from state bar association disciplinary proceedings against a judge.

Uniquely in point is the language of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the opinion of *Wright* v. *McMann*, 387 F.2d 519 (2nd Cir. 1967) wherein Judge Kaufman noted *the very limited use* of the "Abstention Doctrine" in Civil rights cases. He stated:

> "While the doctrine has not been entirely abnegated and instances may still arise in which it will be appropriate, see Harrison v. NAACP, 360 U.S. 167, 79 S.Ct. 1025, 3 L.Ed.2d 1152 (1959); Railroad Comm'n v. Pullman Co. [312 U.S. 496], *it is reasonable to conclude that cases involving vital questions of civil rights are the least likely candidates for abstention*, e.g., McNeese v. Board of Education, [373 U.S. 668] at 673-674, 83 S.Ct. 1433. See note, Federal-Question Abstention [80 Harv. L. Rev. 604] at 607-

> 608. And in the instant case 'the federal right [is not] in any way entangled in a skein of state law that must be untangled before the federal case can proceed'. McNeese v. Board of Education, supra, 373 U.S. at 674, 83 S.Ct. at 1437. *Indeed the objectives of the Civil Rights Act would be defeated if we decided that this federal claim grounded on an alleged violation of the federal constitution would have to stagnate in the federal court until some nebulous or non-existent remedy was pursued like a will-o'-the-wisp in the state court.* See England v. Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, 375 U.S. 411, 84 S.Ct. 461, 11 L.Ed.2d 440 (1964)." (Emphasis supplied.)

Additional persuasive authority of this Honorable Court has established the inapplicability of the "Abstention Doctrine" in most civil rights cases. See *Zwickler* v. *Koota*, 389 U.S. 241, 248-251, (1967); *Bailey* v. *Patterson*, 369 U.S. 31 (1962); and *Holmes* v. *N. Y. City Housing Authority*, 398 F.2d 262, 266 (2nd Cir. 1968) and the rejection of this doctrine has been carried into proceedings involving the legal profession. See *Devita* v. *Sills*, 422 F.2d 1172 (3rd Cir. 1970); *Lipman* v. *VanZant*, 329 F. Supp. 391 (D. C. Miss. 1971); *Law Student's Civil Rights Research Council Inc.* v. *Wadmond*, 299 F. Supp. 117 (D. C. N. Y. 1969) aff'd 401 U.S. 154; *Keenan* v. *Board of Law Examiners*, 317 F. Supp. 1350 (D. C. N. C. 1970).

Indeed, when the federal district court first assumed jurisdiction in the instant case and issued the temporary restraining order against the Ohio Supreme Court justices and all persons acting in concert with them, the district court was following the established law of the Sixth Circuit itself. *Taylor* v. *Kentucky Bar Association*, 424 F.2d 478 (6th Cir. 1970).

Furthermore, the federal district court had to assume jurisdiction over plaintiff's federal civil rights claim *prior to a final adjudication on the merits of the disciplinary charges* against the plaintiff by the Ohio Supreme Court; otherwise the district court might have been forever deprived of its lawful jurisdiction, the plaintiff would be deprived of a federal forum within which he could assert his federal cause of action, and the only appeal would then be by Writ of Certiorari directly to this Honorable Court. Compare *Taylor* v. *Kentucky Bar Association, supra,* (permitting federal jurisdiction *prior* to a final adjudication on the merits of state disciplinary proceedings) with *Coogan* v. *Cincinnati Bar Association,* 431 F.2d 1209 (6th Cir. 1970) (affirming a dismissal of a federal civil rights suit brought *after* the Ohio Supreme Court rendered a decision on the merits of the disciplinary charges brought against Coogan); *McKay* v. *Nesbitt,* 285 F. Supp. 498, aff'd 412 F.2d 846 (9th Cir. 1969) cert. denied 396 U.S. 960, 397 U.S. 1004 (similar to *Coogan*).

The *Talyor* decision, *supra,* is crucial for numerous reasons. First the chronology of events in *Taylor* is virtually identical to those in the instant case, and second, the *Taylor* decision and the subsequent opinion rendered by the district court *after remand* dispels in advance the argument likely to be advanced that the federal court is engaged in an unwarranted interference with state proceedings.

Turning first to the chronology of *Taylor,* we discover that the bar association filed a complaint praying that Taylor be disbarred. An answer was filed on Taylor's behalf and a three man Trial Committee was con-

vened to conduct hearings into the grievances enumerated in the charges. 424 F.2d 478, 480.

The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit then mistakenly stated at 424 F.2d 478, 480:

> "Since that initial hearing, continuances, postponements, and the initiation of this lawsuit have forestalled further action by the Trial Committee."

In reality, the Trial Committee had already found Taylor guilty as charged, had filed its report with the Board of Governors, and had recommended a one year suspension from practice. Further, the Board of Governors had already acted upon the report made to it and in turn had already reported to the Kentucky Supreme Court who had not yet acted upon the recommendation. (See the Memorandum decision and Order of the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky after remand by the Sixth Circuit. Appendix pp. A-49 to A-68). Hence, in point in time, the instant case is indistinguishable from the *Taylor* decision in terms of chronology. Suit by Petitioner Heitzler in federal district court was filed *prior* to a final decision on the merits of the charges against him by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Second, considering the federal-state relations issue it is instructive to note that the federal court in *Taylor* on remand reviewed in extensive detail only those allegations Taylor embodied in his federal civil rights complaint to ascertain what, if any, civil rights were infrnged by the state disciplinary proceedings. Having concluded that Taylor's civil rights were *not infringed*, the district court added at p. 16 of the Opinion on remand that:

> "Again we hasten to add that *the Kentucky Court of Appeals is the final arbiter in these disciplinary proceedings;* they will make the final decision on the fairness of the recommended 5 year suspension. We can detect no unequal treatment, bias or bad faith in that recommendation." (Emphasis supplied.)

Thus the Bar Association was relieved from the prohibition of proceeding to discipline Daniel T. Taylor, and the federal court recognized the ultimate supremacy of the highest State tribunal to regulate its own bar subject to the narrow right of inquiry *prior* to a final adjudication on the merits to ascertain if civil rights have been infringed by such disciplinary proceedings. Exactly the same situation is presented in the instant case.

The ready recognition by the federal court in *Taylor* of the supremacy of the highest state court to regulate and discipline the bar association membership as needed, dispels in advance the need for any type of *Burford* abstention [*Burford* v. *Sun Oil Company*, 319 U.S. 315 (1943)].

First, in *Taylor* the ultimate supremacy of the state's highest court was expressly recognized. Second, the *Burford* decision dealt with a complex scheme of regulation of oil proration in Texas oil fields—a specialized property matter entirely of local concern. In the case at bar we are instead presented with a simple scheme for the regulation of the legal profession which is judicial, not proprietary in nature and certainly not complex in the "*Burford*" sense. Hence, the judicial regulation of the membership of the bar can hardly be equated with the proprietary interpretation of oil proration orders. Third, and of premier significance, Peti-

tioner does not seek, nor would he urge that federal courts act as overseers of disciplinary procedures conducted by the highest state court. Rather, Petitioner asserts his right to a narrow group of constitutional rights based upon an overriding federal policy clearly embodied in the civil rights act (42 U.S.C. §1983) and only in the limited extent that the state regulatory procedures should comport with basic standards of due process. See *Holmes* v. *N. Y. City Housing Authority*, 398 F.2d 262, 266 (2nd Cir. 1968). Fourth, this Honorable Court has quite properly entered the affairs of the states when sound reasons dictated intervention, as in education, *McNeese* v. *Board of Education*, 373 U.S. 668 (1964) and in the domain of state employees, *Baggett* v. *Bullitt*, 377 U.S. 360 (1964); *Keyishian* v. *Board of Regents*, 385 U.S. 589 (1967). Certainly if the compelling facts are present, as they are in the instant case, no sound reason exists for ignoring the overriding federal policy embodied in the civil rights statute. Federal intervention is thus wholly justified. Even the most cursory reading of the complaint (Appendix, pp. A-1 to A-29) indicates that "special circumstances" are present in the instant case which mandate federal intervention. See *Younger* v. *Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971).

Taking as true the uncontroverted allegations of the complaint one finds that the disciplinary proceedings conducted against Petitioner (in both Case No. 168 and later Case No. 172—a companion case) were conducted without a semblance of due process and in such a flagrantly unconstitutional manner so as to constitute bad faith and harrasment leading to immediate and irreparable harm. To say that the harm Petitioner suffered was great is to minimize the indignity suffered

when a judge of a court is removed from office without hearing and notice.

First, Petitioner was denied the right to file a brief on the merits of the charges against him with the three man Hearing Panel. Then without notice, the Panel filed their findings with the seventeen man Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline. Also without notice the Board filed its findings with the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners. Only after Petitioner read about the above action in the newspapers and only after repeated requests were made, was Petitioner even able to obtain a copy of the Panel's findings and recommendations concerning the charges against him and then fully forty-five days after they had been filed. Petitioner had no opportunity to brief or so much as argue the merits of the charges against him prior to the final recommendations.

Then when the seventeen man Board of Commissioners did meet for their two and one half hour meeting which culminated in the recommendation that Petitioner be indefinitely suspended from the practice of law only fifteen men were present. Two were absent and one member who had testified against Petitioner in the disciplinary proceedings was present, although he allegedly did not discuss the issues nor vote even though this same member had previously given testimony against Petitioner before an Ohio Grand Jury, who did *not* return an indictment against Petitioner. Said member also was characterized by the press as one who had played a "key role" in those Grand Jury proceedings and who was "very critical" of the failure to indict Petitioner.

Notwithstanding the above partiality of the Board itself, three other members of the Board had already sat as the Hearing Panel in Case No. 172, a companion case against Petitioner but based on different charges. The charges in Case No. 172 grew out of and resulted directly from the testimony given in Case No. 168 (the one ultimately resulting in Petitioner's indefinite suspension). (Case No. 172 was later dismissed after Petitioner was indefinitely suspended.)

Furthermore the day the Board met to decide Petitioner's fate as a judge, only a two and one half hour meeting was held wherein matters other than Petitioners' were presented. No one could have read the 1408 page transcript in that brief time, let alone all fourteen members.

Petitioner further attacked the concept of double and sometimes triple hearsay which results in such Panel-Board-Supreme Court disciplinary proceedings and also averred that "... the statutory scheme for disciplinary (sic) attorneys in the State of Ohio is itself unconstitutional." Petitioner thus asserted violations of the First, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments.

On September 1, 1972 the Ohio Supreme Court entered an order to show cause why Petitioner should not be suspended and then on September 8, 1972, by order Petitioner was suspended from his position as judge pending final disposition of his case by the Ohio Supreme Court. All this was likewise done without a hearing on the question of his removal temporary or otherwise, and all done in violation of specific statutory provisions and court rules for the removal of judges.

A *pro se* motion to reconsider the temporary suspension was likewise denied. On October 17, 1972 newly obtained counsel for the Petitioner filed a Motion to Quash with the Ohio Supreme Court and on October 20, 1972 the formal objections were filed. Ultimately the case was argued orally before the Ohio Supreme Court and on December 15, 1972 Judge Heitzler was indefinitely suspended from the practice of law.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit was clearly mistaken when it concluded ". . . that the issues in the State proceeding are identical [with the federal proceeding]". They manifestly were not.

First it must be noted that the federal proceeding challenged, *inter alia*, the entire scheme for disciplining attorneys in the State of Ohio. Second, Petitioner raised serious double jeopardy questions clearly of constitutional proportions arising out of Case No. 172, the companion case to Case No. 168 but embodying different charges against Petitioner. Third, the issue relating to double and perhaps triple hearsay in the grievance proceedings alone was raised in federal court. Fourth, and finally, Petitioner in his federal complaint sought vindication of his federal cause of action for deprivation of his civil rights under color of state authority. Hence, the issues presented to the federal court were *not* identical to those presented to the state court.

Petitioner, therefore submits that the "special circumstances" required by the recent decision of this Court in *Younger* v. *Harris*, 401 U. S. 37 (1971) have been completely satisfied by the facts and allegations pleaded in the complaint and that federal injunctive

relief against state disciplinary proceedings was entirely proper.

But even a stronger case for federal injunctive intervention is presented when one reconsiders the tragic case of John Ruffalo. This Honorable Court in 1968 ummistakably decided that the Ohio disciplinary proceedings conducted against John Ruffalo were devoid of due process. See *In Re Ruffalo*, 390 U.S. 544 (1968), where this Honorable Court expressly held that Ruffalo had been denied due process of law. Notwithstanding this holding of the United States Supreme Court concerning procedural due process, the Ohio Supreme Court little more than a month ago refused to reinstate Ruffalo to the practice of law. See DD-57 On The Disciplinary Docket Of The Ohio Supreme Court, *In Re Petition For Reinstatement of John Ruffalo, Jr.*, found in Volume XLV, *The Ohio Bar*, at 1654, December 4, 1972.

Reading the complaint in the instant case together with the tragic history of the disciplinary proceedings conducted against John Ruffalo, it is little wonder that the same federal district judge who presided in the original proceedings in the *Ruffalo* case reacted so strongly in the present case when he was again presented with an equally serious situation involving substantial violations of procedural due process. In essence then the requisite bad faith and "special circumstances" required by *Younger*, *supra*, are apparent. Most certainly, the district court had jurisdiction and at least deserved the right to take some evidence concerning Petitioner's claims prior to a mandate from the Sixth Circuit ordering the District Court to divest itself of its lawful jurisdiction already assumed.

An alternative form of relief, should this Honorable Court grant the Petition for Writ of Certiorari, would be to reinstate the complaint in Federal District Court and permit an evidentiary hearing to be held on the merits of the issuance of the preliminary and/or permanent injunction. The issue of federal jurisdiction would then be more clearly presented.

Persuasive in this respect is the wisdom of Chief Justice Marshall speaking in *Cohens* v. *Virginia*, 6 Wheat. 264, 5 L. Ed. 257:

> "It is most true, that this court will not take jurisdiction if it should not; but it is equally true, that it must take jurisdiction, if it should. The judiciary cannot, as the legisture may, avoid a measure, because it approaches the confines of the constitution. *** With whatever doubts, with whatever difficulties, a case may be attended, we must decide it, if it be brought before us. We have no more right to decline the exercise of jurisdiction which is given, than to usurp that which is not given. The one or the other would be treason to the constitution."

Furthermore, Congress is empowered under Article 3 of the United States Constitution to limit the jurisdiction of federal courts. Clearly then the federal courts can have only such power and should exercise only such power as Congress has dictated, *Ex Parte, McCardle*, 7 Wall.506, 19 L. Ed. 264 (1869); Hart, *The Power of Congress to Limit the Jurisdiction of Federal Courts: An Exercise in Dialectic*, 66 Harv. L. Rev. 1362 (1953). Unmistakably 28 U.S.C. 1343(3) and (4) provide that the district courts *shall* have original jurisdiction in cases involving the deprivation under color of state authority of those constitutional

rights protected by 42 U.S.C. §1983 and equitable relief can properly be invoked.

Respondents will obviously place great reliance upon the Second Circuit decision of *Erdman* v. *Stevens*, 458 F.2d 1205 (2nd Cir. 1972) cert. denied, 41 U.S.L.W. 3167 (October 10, 1972). At first blush the *Erdman* decision does in fact bear some similarity to the instant case. However, a closer reading of Erdman substantiates Petitioner's position on numerous grounds.

First of all, the court in *Erdman* admits that the federal district court in fact had jurisdiction in a civil rights suit brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983. Secondly, the decision appears to leave open federal intervention in state proceedings for interpretation on a case by case basis. Third, the fatal defect in the plaintiff's case in *Erdman* was the conclusory allegations in the complaint he filed—an issue that has been expressly avoided by Petitioner in the instant case.

Fourth, Petitioner submits and has already discussed that the standard required by *Younger* v. *Harris*, *supra*, involving "special circumstances" has been met—assuming that the *Erdman* decision is correct in holding that the disciplinary proceedings are more "criminal" than "civil". See *Erdman* v. *Stevens*, 458 F2d at 1210-1211. Fifth, having read the complaint in the instant case and the history of John Ruffalo's case, there is every reason to assume that the constitutional rights Petitioner asserted in federal district court were not and have not been protected by the Ohio Supreme Court in the appellate review. Sixth, while *Erdman* was undeniably decided after *Younger* v. *Harris*, it was decided before this Honorable Court's most recent decision in *Mitchum* v. *Foster*, 407 U.S.

225 (1972). Seventh, and finally, even assuming arguendo that *Erdman* is in point, it is the law of the Second Circuit. The district court in the instant case was wholly justified in following the wisdom of the Sixth Circuit in *Taylor* v. *Kentucky Bar Association* and the subsequent opinion on remand. For all these reasons, the *Erdman* decision is not contrary to the position advanced by Petitioner herein.

The complaint filed in this case alleges all of the necessary facts to establish a cause of action under the Civil Rights Act and all of the facts necessary to establish original jurisdiction in the United States District Courts. The jurisdiction for violation of the Civil Rights Act is original in the Federal Courts because no state court has jurisdiction to grant the relief that Federal Courts can grant for an alleged violation of that Act of Congress.

Furthermore, in the instant case, the jurisdiction of the Federal Court is exclusive. Heitzler was being tried by an arm of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the matter had been presented to that Court. This, then, was the very body that was effectively at the time depriving him of his civil rights. To think that the same body would change direction and somehow vindicate these rights which were clearly being abridged is absurd, particularly in view of the fact that Motions to Dismiss, Recuse the Board, and stay the proceedings had not previously been granted, and further, in view of the fact that that same body itself promulgated the rules so totally lacking in due process.

Obviously, no lower Ohio Court could take jurisdiction because the Supreme Court of Ohio was then acting as rule maker and prosecutor. And no other Court

could take jurisdiction because original jurisdiction is vested in the Federal District Court under Title 28 §1343. Therefore, Heitzler followed the *only* available remedy available to him.

Once a complaint alleges the necessary facts to establish jurisdiction and the necessary facts setting forth a cause of action under a Federal law, the Federal Courts must take as true those allegations in determining the issue of whether or not it should proceed to exercise its jurisdiction. It has no discretion and the Federal Court must take jurisdiction and must proceed in the case if the necessary facts are sufficiently alleged, as is the case here. The question of whether or not Heitzler may prevail in his District Court action is not in issue; that is a matter to be determined initially by the District Court and then by appeal to the Court of Appeals, if necessary. It is respectfully submitted that the Court of Appeals cannot, by issuing a Writ of Mandamus totally lacking in authority, divest a federal district court of its original jurisdiction, in a civil rights case where the jurisdictonal facts are sufficiently alleged in the complaint.

In the instant case, not only did the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issue such an unprecedented order, which order resulted in divesting the original jurisdiction of a federal district court, but it did so before the Judge of that Court ever had a chance to hear the case. That Court merely entered a temporary restraining order to maintain the status quo prior to a hearing on a properly filed civil rights complaint, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals divested that jurisdiction. That ruling denied (1) a hearing in the original suit properly brought, and (2) denied the

judicial discretion of a federal district Court Judge to decide if abstention was proper. This it did without legal authority and without precedent.

In the very delicate and sensitive area of Federal-State relations the Federal Courts should not interfere with areas which are clearly within the sole province of the state, such as disbarrment proceedings and criminal proceedings. However, the larger issue of whether the Federal Court should interfere in such proceedings depends upon the presentation to the Federal District Court of particular and specific constitutional issues which rise above the non-desireability of Federal Court interference.

Clearly a bad faith prosecution which in light of the previous actions and previous cases of the Ohio Supreme Court exist here, would indicate that the Federal District Court should be entitled to make a full scale determination and hold hearings to determine whether the Petitioner's claim of constitutional infringement is substantial, warranting an injunction against the Supreme Court of Ohio for serious and substantial infringement of Petitioner's constitutional rights.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals does not understand the proper role of the Federal Courts in this sensitive and delicate area.[1]

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[1]See for example, *Burks* v. *Perk, Mayor,*—— F.2d——, (6th Cir. November 17, 1972, No. 72-1368), as evidence of bad faith and since the Supreme Court of the United States opinion *In Re Ruffalo,* 390 U.S. 544 (1968), deciding that Ruffalo had been denied due process of law, the Ohio Supreme Court has refused to reinstate Ruffalo to his right to practice law, even though he was denied due process of law. 45 Ohio Bar 1654, December 4, 1972, DD-57.

Therefore, the following principles are clear: First the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit had no right to issue the Writ of Mandamus prior to hearing by the Federal District Court, because to do so divested that Court of original jurisdiction without allowing the District Judge to exercise his discretion in a positive manner.

Second, the Federal District Court had original jurisdiction, and in this case, exclusive jurisdiction of the claimed violation of Heitzler's Federal civil rights, and the Court of Appeals was without power to divest Heitzler of a full hearing on his claim.

Third, the action of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is so contrary to law and reason, reversal is required.

II.

The Venue for the Federal Civil Rights Action Based Upon 28 U. S. C. §1392 (a) Was Proper in a Case Where the Individual Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court Are Named as Defendants, and Where Two of the Individual Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court Reside in the Northern District of Ohio, and the Balance of Them Reside in the Southern District of Ohio, Where the Main Office of the Supreme Court of Ohio Is Situated in Columbus, Ohio, in the Southern District, and Where by Statute the Ohio Supreme Court is Authorized to Sit and Act Anywhere in the State of Ohio and Where the Suit is Brought in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Petitioner submits that the venue in the case at bar based upon 28 U.S.C. §1392(a) was proper and that the case should not have been dismissed.

Petitioner alleged in his complaint that Lloyd O. Brown and J. J. P. Corrigan, two of the individual

justices of the Ohio Supreme Court, lived in the Northern District of Ohio. The remaining five members of the Ohio Supreme Court are alleged to reside in the Southern District of Ohio. The main office of the Supreme Court of Ohio is situated in Columbus, Ohio, in the Southern District, but, of course, the orders entered and the acts taken by the Supreme Court of Ohio are effective statewide, and that Court by statute is authorized to sit anywhere in the State of Ohio. Title 25 O.R.C. §2503.34.

Title 28 U.S.C. §1392(a) was designed for just such a case as this. Frequently state officials have been held to be "resident" in the district in which they live. See *Thompson, et al.* v. *Spear, et al.*, 91 F.2d 430 (C.C.A. 5th 1937) cert. denied, 302 U.S. 762 (1938); *Northern Indiana Public Service Co.* v. *Public Service Commission of Indiana, et al.*, 1 F. Supp. 296 (D.C. N.D. Ind. 1932); *Smith, et al.* v. *Merrill, et al.*, 81 F. 2d 609 (5th 1936); *Gunn* v. *Mathis*, 157 F. Supp. 169; *Heard, et al.* v. *Ouachita Parish School Board, et al.*, 94 F. Supp. 897 (D.C. W.D. La. 1951); *United States* v. *Mississippi, et al.*, 380 U.S. 128 (1965), 1 Moore's Federal Practice ¶¶ 0.142 (1) at p. 1453; 0.142 [2.-1] at page 1456; 0.142 [5.-2] at page 1484; 0.143 (1) at page 1552; 0.143 (2).

In the *Gunn* decision, the district court held that the fact that the defendants were public officials did not exempt them from the provisions of this section fixing venue of actions against defendants residing in different districts in the same state. See also *Herd* v. *Ouachita Parish School Board, supra.*

Further the individual members of the Ohio Supreme Court are authorized to exercise their judicial powers

in Columbus, as well as anywhere else in the State of Ohio. See Title 25, Ohio Revised Code, §2503.34. The justices of the Ohio Supreme Court may certainly act where they reside, such as signing orders or writs in the district of their own home residence. Additionally, the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline and the three man Hearing Panel, part of the disciplinary scheme for members of the Bar of Ohio, and an arm of The Ohio Supreme Court, are authorized to and do in fact act statewide and in the Northern District of Ohio.

For these reasons Petitioner submits that venue is proper in the Federal Court in the Northern District of Ohio and in the alternative, should the venue have been held to be improper, the case should have been transferred instead of dismissed, inasmuch as jurisdiction was first lawfully assumed.

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CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Petition for Writ of Certiorari should be granted. It is also respectfully requested that a stay order be entered staying the effect of the *per curiam* order and opinion rendered on November 10, 1972, by the United States Court of Appeals pending disposition of this Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

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Counsel for George S. Heitzler, Jr., Intervenor below and real party in interest, Petitioner.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I served three true and correct copies of the foregoing Petition for Writ of Certiorari, and three copies of the Appendix upon Victor E. DeMarco, Esquire, of the law firm of Jones, Day, Cockley & Reavis, 1750 Union Commerce Building, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115, attorneys for Respondent, and upon the Honorable Frank J. Battisti, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, at Cleveland, United States Court House, Cleveland, Ohio, by depositing same in the United

States mail, postage prepaid by air mail, this 7th day of February, 1973.

Stanley E. Preiser

STANLEY E. PREISER
Of Counsel for Petitioner

FILE COPY

Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED
FEB 8 1973
MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of The United States

October Term, 1972

No. 72-1091

HONORABLE FRANK J. BATTISTI,
Chief Judge, United States
District Court for the Northern District of Ohio,
Petitioner,
and
GEORGE S. HEITZLER, JR.,
Intervenor below,
Petitioner,
vs.
HONORABLE C. WILLIAM O'NEILL,
Chief Justice of Ohio, et al.,
Respondents.

APPENDIX TO THE PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

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Counsel for George S. Heitzler, Jr., Intervenor below and real party in interest, Petitioner.

APPENDIX

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
JUDGE GEORGE S. HEITZLER, JR.

Division of Domestic Relations,
Court of Common Pleas,
Hamilton County, Ohio
Hamilton County Court House
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Plaintiff,

vs.

C. WILLIAM O'NEILL, Chief Justice,
LOUIS J. SCHNEIDER, JR., Associate Justice,
J. J. P. CORRIGAN, Associate Justice,
LLOYD O. BROWN, Associate Justice
THOMAS M. HERBERT, Associate Justice,
LEONARD J. STERN, Associate Justice,
ROBERT E. LEACH, Associate Justice,

and all members of the bench of the Supreme Court of Ohio, State House Annex, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Defendants.

C72-1140
Civil No. .....
Judge Battisti

Filed
Oct. 24, 1972
At 5:15 O'clock P.M.
Dominic J. Cimino, Clerk
U.S. District Court,
N. D. O.

COMPLAINT

I. Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction of this Honorable Court is invoked pursuant to the First, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United

States, and pursuant to Title 28, U.S.C. Sections 1343 (3) and (4) for alleged violations of 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

II. Parties

Plaintiff is the duly elected Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio; Defendant, C. William O'Neill, is the duly elected and acting Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of Ohio; and the remaining Defendants are the duly qualified and acting Associate Justices of The Supreme Court of Ohio; all of the Defendants comprising of the entire Bench of The Supreme Court of Ohio. Lloyd O. Brown and J. J. P. Corrigan reside in the Northern District of Ohio. All other Defendants reside in the Southern District of Ohio. Venue is based on 28 U.S.C. § 1392.

III. Facts—Case No. 168

A. On the 11th day of August, 1971, three members of the Cincinnati Bar Association, namely R. O. Klausmeyer, John J. Getgey and C. Donald Heile, filed with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of The Supreme Court of the State of Ohio a Complaint and Certificate against George S. Heitzler, Jr., Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Division of Domestic Relations) of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, wherein eleven (11) paragraphs recited certain alleged acts on the part of George S. Heitzler, Jr., which allegedly constituted grounds for misconduct as a judge, assigning violations of certain Canons of Judicial Ethics. (A copy of the Complaint is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 1.)

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B. On the 9th day of September, 1971, George S. Heitzler, Jr., filed an Answer with said Board denying the charges. (A copy of the Answer is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 2.)

C. On October 4, 1971, Defendant filed a Supplemental Complaint wherein two (2) additional charges of alleged acts of misconduct were filed against the Plaintiff. (A copy of the Supplemental Complaint is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 3.)

D. On October 27, 1971, Plaintiff filed an Answer to the Supplemental Complaint denying those charges. (A copy of the Supplemental Answer is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 4.)

E. The Complaint and Answer, and the Supplemental Complaint and Supplemental Answer designated as Case No. 168, came on for hearing, commencing December 16, 1971, before a Hearing Panel of the Board of Commissioners; the hearings lasted approximately six days during which time testimony was taken and transcribed; and on January 7, 1972, the hearing before the Hearing Panel of the Board of Commissioners was concluded. (A copy of the certified transcript, Volumes I to VI, are filed with the United States District Court in Cleveland, Ohio.)

F. That during said hearings Plaintiff moved to dismiss the charges filed against him in the Supplemental Complaint, and the Hearing Panel reserved a ruling on said Motion to Dismiss.

G. At the conclusion of testimony and after the Hearing Panel reserved their ruling on Plaintiff's Mo-

tion to Dismiss the Supplemental Complaint, the Hearing Panel set forth a well-defined time schedule for the filing of all briefs on the original Complaint in Case No. 168, and a well-defined time schedule for the filing of briefs on the Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss the Supplemental Complaint.

Both sides filed their briefs on the Motion to Dismiss the Supplemental Complaint within the time allowed.

H. The Hearing Panel had provided, as to the time for filing briefs on the merits of Case 168, that the Defendant was to have two weeks following notice of the ruling of the Hearing Panel on Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss the Supplemental Complaint, and Plaintiff was to have two weeks after receipt of Defendant's brief to file his brief.

However, the Hearing Panel on August 4, 1972, without notice to the Plaintiff, filed their Findings of Fact and Recommendations with the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners and at the same time sustained Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss the Supplemental Complaint. (A copy of the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Hearing Panel is attached hereto and made a part hereof and is marked as Exhibit 5.) Thus, Plaintiff, although originally granted time by the Hearing Panel to file a brief on the merits of Case No. 168, was denied the right to file that brief because the Hearing Panel decided the case on the merits and made their recommendations and findings of fact weeks before Plaintiff's brief on the merits was due to be filed in accordance with the Hearing Panel's own ruling.

I. The Board of Commissioners filed its Findings of Fact and Recommendations with the Secretary of the Board on September 1, 1972. (A copy of the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 7.)

Plaintiff and his counsel did not learn of the aforesaid action of the Hearing Panel or Board until the night of September 1, 1972, when they read in the newspapers that the Board of Commissioners had filed with the Secretary of the Board its Findings of Fact and Recommendations. No formal notice from the Board or Secretary of the Board was received by Plaintiff or his attorneys until September 5, 1972.

J. Immediately thereafter one of the attorneys of record for Plaintiff telephoned the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners and requested on behalf of Plaintiff a copy of the Hearing Panel's findings and recommendations and was told the same was not available to Plaintiff. Counsel for Plaintiff then on September 5, 1972, wrote to the Secretary of the Board again requesting that report, which request was apparently ignored. Thereafter, Judge Heitzler personally wrote to the Secretary of the Board requesting a copy of the Panel's findings and recommendations. Finally on September 20, approximately 45 days after being filed with the Secretary of the Board, and 19 days after the Board of Commissioners had filed its findings and recommendations, a copy of the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact and Recommendations was sent to Plaintiff.

K. Plaintiff, therefore, says that the Hearing Panel violated its own rulings and denied Plaintiff the effec-

tive assistance of counsel and the right to file a brief on the merits of the case and, the Board of Commissioners made their Findings of Fact and Recommendations without giving Plaintiff the right to be heard and without giving Plaintiff the right to file a brief on the merits.

Plaintiff further says that he was denied due process of law and the right to counsel when R. O. Klausmeyer acting on behalf of the Defendant on August 9, 1972, filed a brief on behalf of Defendant with the Hearing Panel, and in his covering letter recited that he knew he was filing that brief before it was due. In that very same letter, Mr. Klausmeyer recited and acknowledged that by filing the Defendant's brief early he did not intend to impose upon Plaintiff any obligation to file his brief at a time earlier than that previously assigned. (A copy of the cover letter sent by R. O. Klausmeyer is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and marked as Exhibit 7.) As a consequence, the Board of Commissioners had before it in their consideration of the merits of this case, only the brief of Relator, and denied Respondent any right to argue, discuss, or brief the merits of the case.

L. Plaintiff further says that on the same day the Hearing Panel filed with the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners their Findings of Fact and Recommendations, to-wit on August 4, 1972, the Board of Commissioners met from only 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on that day, and they recommended that Respondent be indefinitely suspended from the practice of law. At that meeting only fifteen (15) members of the Board of Commissioners attended. Two were absent and Mr. Gordon Scherer although present, allegedly did not dis-

cuss the proceedings in this case, nor vote on the same. Messers. Snyder and Green were absent. (A copy of the extract of the minutes of the meeting held on August 4, 1972, is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 8.)

M. Plaintiff says that the presence of Mr. Gordon Scherer during the deliberations of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline constituted an undue and coercive influence upon the deliberations of the Board. He was present during the deliberations conducted with respect to this case, as the minutes of the Board demonstrate although "[he] took no part in the discussion or voting in Case No. 168." (See Exhibit 8.) Respondent submits that even though he did not vote and did not participate in the discussions, this does not vitiate the fact that Gordon H. Scherer testified for the Defendant in this case, and was also the same person who had previously "played a key role in launching the scheduled Grand Jury investigation of the Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court," seeking to have Respondent, George S. Heitzler, Jr., indicted. (See the attached newspaper article, attached hereto and made a part hereof, and marked as Exhibit 9, and the publicized portion of the Grand Jury report, attached hereto and made a part hereof and marked as Exhibit 10.) The Grand Jury which considered the evidence presented in part by Mr. Gordon H. Scherer did *NOT* return an indictment against Respondent.

Further, Gordon H. Scherer was the Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Central Committee and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Ohio State Republican Organization. He had recom-

mended that Judge Heitzler be endorsed as the Republican candidate for the Domestic Relations Court. Relations apparently soured between Scherer and Judge Heitzler sometime during 1970.

Next came the attempt to indict Judge Heitzler. Gordon H. Scherer testified on recross examination during the Panel hearings that he was "very critical of * * * the Prosecutor's handling of the case." Furthermore, during the Panel hearings, Gordon H. Scherer quoted with obvious displeasure portions of the record from the public portion of the report of the Grand Jury.

Finally, of all seventeen Board members, Gordon H. Scherer was the only member from Hamilton County. As a result, Plaintiff says that it was probable that his testimony was given great weight by the Panel and in turn by the Board on which he sat.

N. Plaintiff therefore submits that the proceedings before the Board of Commissioners are open to grave questions concerning the impartiality of the proceedings before it and the proceedings thus conducted were violative of due process.

O. Plaintiff says that the Board of Commissioners were prejudicially and unconstitutionally constituted and their action was and is unlawful, and unconstitutional because three members of that Board who sat and made findings and recommendations in Case No. 168, had heard evidence in Case No. 172, a pending companion case involving this same Respondent, but based upon different charges.

Case No. 168 was heard in December of 1971. Case No. 172 was heard in May of 1972. The charges against

Plaintiff in Case No. 172 grew out of and were a direct result of the Board's investigation into Case No. 168. Even though Plaintiff was formally charged in Case No. 172, he had already testified in Case No. 168 as to the charges brought against him in May in Case No. 172. Determination by the Board of Case No. 168 was finalized and filed in September, 1972. The fifteen (15) man Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline which heard and passed on Case No. 168 included Roger H. Smith, Erle Bridgewater and John O. Henry, who constituted the Hearing Panel that had originally heard Case No. 168. The Panel that heard Case No. 172 before Case No. 168 was finalized included; Norman Webster, Howard Lutz and John C. Sheppard. These men also sat on the Board that filed the final report in 168 and Mr. Lutz signed as Chairman of the Board the final recommendation in 168.

Plaintiff says that the three members have played a dual role and have been privy to information that undoubtedly improperly influenced their judgment and that the Board of Commissioners was prejudicially and unconstitutionally constituted and their action was therefore unconstitutional and unlawful.

P. Even though the Board of Commissioners at their 2½ hour meeting on August 4, 1972, stated that the recommendations of the Hearing Panel in Case 168 were "unanimously" adopted by the Board, the facts are that it was only unanimously adopted by fourteen (14) members of a seventeen (17) man board. As above noted, two members were absent and Gordon Scherer did not vote.

As well, the transcript of testimony in Case 168 before the Hearing Panel and presented to the Board of

Commissioners to be considered during their 2½ hour meeting was 1408 pages in length, and it is respectfully submitted that there was only one copy available and that no member of the Board of Commissioners could have read that transcript of testimony (much less all of them) in the 2½ hour meeting. Additionally, during the same 2½ hour meeting, matters other than Case 168 were considered.

Plaintiff therefore further alleges that there was a total abrogation of the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners and an unconstitutional and unlawful delegation of their authority to the Hearing Panel, especially when the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners are almost word for word the same as the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Hearing Panel. (Compare Exhibits 5 and 6.)

Q. Of all the charges filed against the Plaintiff in the original and supplemental complaints, the Board found as follows:

1. From time to time between late 1969 and September, 1970 Plaintiff, was married to his first wife yet was separated and living in an apartment apart from her. Living with Plaintiff was his son who was partially invalided following serious surgery involving the pitutiary gland. The son needed and still needs medication which, for the most part cannot be self administered. As a result, during the time period abovementioned, Carol Chasteen, now Plaintiff's present wife attended to the various needs of Plaintiff's son. The transcript shows that she was paid for her services although no tax deductions were taken therefor.

Plaintiff was formally separated from his first wife in January of 1970 and the divorce decree was final in October of 1970. During this time Plaintiff maintained a close relationship with his present wife. The Board of Commissioners found that the conduct of the Plaintiff and his present wife gave the impression that they were co-habitating during the time period Plaintiff was separated from his first wife.

The Board apparently gave great weight to the testimony that Carol Chasteen was seen on one occasion in Plaintiff's apartment shaking out rugs in her robe in the early morning. No date was specified as to when this alleged instance occurred, and it could have occurred after the marriage. To the contrary, testimony was presented to demonstrate that Carol Chasteen was rendering care to Plaintiff's son that would have been the equivalent of that given by a practical nurse. Neither Plaintiff nor Miss Chasteen's devotion to Plaintiff's son was questioned.

Contrary evidence of co-habitation affirmatively appeared in the affidavits of Carol Chasteen Heitzler and Geoffrey Heitzler attached hereto and made a part hereof, and marked as Exhibits 12 and 13 wherein they each deny that Plaintiff and Carol Chasteen were living together prior to their marriage.

Plaintiff says further that the testimony of Mr. Grecco relied upon to establish the appearance of co-habitation is so biased as to not be worthy of any probative value in the considerations of this Honorable Court.

Nevertheless the Board found:

> ". . . that the conduct of Respondent in relation to Miss Chasteen's (Judge Heitzler's present wife) presence in Respondent's apartment gave the appearance of cohabitation and therefore impropriety in violation of Canon 4 of the Judicial Ethics,"

and for this violation, taken alone, the Board recommended a private reprimand. For the reasons set out above, Plaintiff says the Board made this finding without evidence to sustain it, therefore denying to Plaintiff due process of law.

2. Plaintiff, while Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations served as a director of a Kentucky corporation known as Harmony Loan Company, authorized to do business only in Kentucky, not in Ohio where Respondent served as a Judge. During the period of 1964 to August, 1971, Respondent did not participate in management and was not active in the business, nor did he attend directors' meetings during this period. He invested a total of $30,000.00 composed of his son's and his wife's money in this corporation in the form of non-voting stock and five and ten year debentures. Plaintiff says that there is no evidence that Respondent at any time used the power of his office or name to promote the business. The Board has stated that Plaintiff permitted his name to be used in a prospectus used in connection with the sale of debentures—and also permitted his name and biography—to be used.

An examination of the prospectus in question reveals that the address of Respondent is incorrect, and the biographical information contained therein is also in-

correct. Plaintiff submits that this erroneous information in the prospectus proves that he did not have knowledge of the brochure or prospectus which had been circulated without his knowledge.

There is absolute no evidence that Respondent knew of the prospectus involved and no evidence that the Respondent permitted or used the power of his office or the influence of his name to promote the business interests of others. The contrary is shown in affidavits of Respondent Heitzler and Frank Spampinato, Vice President of said Harmony Loan Company, (which affidavits are attached hereto and made a part hereof and are marked as Exhibits 14 and 15.)

Nonetheless, the Board concluded at page 10 of their Findings that:

> ". . . Respondent violated Canon 25 by using the power of his office and the influence of his name to promote the business interests of other; . . ."

For this violation, coupled with those charges discussed below in paragraphs 3 and 4, the Board recommended an indefinite suspension.

Canon 25 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics does not specifically state that a judge cannot be a member of a Board of Directors. It only prohibits allowing one to permit the power of his office or name to be used for influence. Plaintiff says that the facts show that this did not happen in this case.

Further Plaintiff says that the Findings and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners as to

an alleged violation of Canon 25 violated due process, in that Respondent's conduct conformed to the basic judicial standard existing in Cincinnati, Ohio. An affidavit of Mr. Wilbert F. Stagenhorst shows the results of an investigation establishing the judicial standards in this regard in Ohio, in that other judges in Ohio are on various Boards of Directors. (That affidavit is attached hereto and made a part hereof and is marked as Exhibit 16.) Plaintiff says that this affidavit reveals the standard in the community regarding the membership of judges on boards of financial institutions and corporations which standard is that it is common and proper for judges to be members of these boards. It is to be noted further that this affidavit covers only financial institutions located in Ohio and does not cover business or charitable enterprises which, of course, come under the same Canon. Plaintiff says he did not violate Canon 25, and there is no evidence to substantiate this finding, and to so hold violates the due process clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the right to invest as one wishes secured by the Ninth Amendment.

3. Plaintiff has been charged and found guilty of a violation of Canon 12 because he employed.

> ". . . one he knew or should have known, was not possessed of the required character and fitness." (Page 10 Board findings.).

For this charge, among others, the Board recommended an indefinite suspension.

Plaintiff says that the standard of hiring personnel working for Hamilton County, the policy of the State of Ohio, and the policy of the American Bar Associa-

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tion is to rehabilitate those who have a prior criminal record by hiring them. (See the A.B.A. view attached hereto and made a part hereof and marked as Exhibits 17 and 18.)

Rufus Smith had been hired in a nonsensitive position, the purpose of which was to call cases and escort litigants to the proper referee in the Domestic Court of Hamilton County. Mr. Smith was convicted of a felony January 26, 1955, served his time and paid his debt to society. After that one felony he has had no further felony convictions. During Rufus Smith's service with Hamilton County Courts he suffered no arrests or infractions of the law. Plaintiff says that a man whose only felony conviction was in 1955 should be given every opportunity to rehabilitate himself.

Wilbert F. Stagenhorst personally conducted an investigation regarding the employment standards of hiring employees of Hamilton County who have a prior criminal record. (His affidavit showing the results of his investigation was attached hereto and made a part hereof and is marked as Exhibit 19.) This affidavit lists people working for Hamilton County who have prior records. It should be noted that a guard for the County Court, who is still working, has a record which includes charges of serious crimes of violence.

Additionally, as more fully appears from the affidavits attached hereto and made a part hereof and marked as Exhibits 20 and 21, Rufus Smith denies the charges levied against him during the hearings before the Hearing Panel and also explains that he refused to testify because of the pendency of Grand Jury proceedings involving him. His attorney corroborates these facts also by affidavit.

Plaintiff says the Board of Commissioners did not take into consideration the standard in this nation or the State of Ohio or Hamilton County, regarding the hiring of people with a prior record, and in finding that Respondent had violated the Canons of Judicial Ethics in this regard, they failed to follow the minimum standards. Thus, Plaintiff says that he did not violate the existing standard in the community, did not violate Canon 25 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics, and the Board's finding is not based on the evidence and there is not evidence to substantiate such a finding, and therefore, Plaintiff has been denied due process of law. Such conduct should not be prohibited or limited, but should be encouraged.

4. Plaintiff was found guilty of a violation of Canon 13 by suffering his conduct to justify the impression that his favor was unduly enjoyed by another and that he violated Canon 34 in that he was not indifferent to partisan influences. (Findings of the Board, P. 10). For this conduct, coupled with that detailed in Paragraphs 2 and 3, *supra*, the Board recommended an indefinite suspension.

To the contrary, competent evidence was presented by an attorney who had practiced for 30 years before the Domestic Relations Court and who saw no favoritism.

Testimony was introduced by an investigative reporter, Gerald White, which allegedly showed by "random, extensive comparative analysis of the outcome of cases" handled by one attorney that favoritism existed.

Plaintiff says that the statistical material was not random, but was selective. Further, it was biased, in-

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complete and not based on settled statistical principles. As such, Respondent says it was entitled to no weight.

Plaintiff was also criticized because he ate lunch with certain named persons thereby creating the impression of favoritism. Plaintiff asserts that the portion of the Findings of Fact based on this testimony is contrary to the First and Fourteenth Amendments' freedoms of speech and association; these rights have been denied to Plaintiff.

Therefore, this finding is not substantiated by the evidence, cannot constitutionally be made, and therefore, Plaintiff was denied due process of law.

5. Finally, the Board found that Plaintiff had violated Canons 4, 13, 25, 26, and 34 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics because he signed numerous judicial orders during his term as Municipal Judge on which bench he served prior to becoming Common Pleas Judge, which orders he signed while Municipal Judge involved Harmony Loan Company of which he was a director. For this the Board recommended a public reprimand.

The orders were signed when Plaintiff was Municipal Judge, not during his term as Domestic Relations Judge. There also was no evidence to prove that Plaintiff heard contested matters.

Plaintiff therefore says: First, that the signatures on the orders entered were purely an administrative and not a judicial function; and second; that the entry of the orders occurred during a prior judicial term; these charges may not now be raised.

Plaintiff says that this finding is not substantiated by the evidence, and therefore, Plaintiff has been denied due process of law.

R. Plaintiff says that the procedure regarding factual findings and recommendations adopted in the case at bar is violative of due process because the ultimate decision rendered by The Ohio Supreme Court is based on double and sometimes triple hearsay.

The three-man Hearing Panel alone sees and hears the witnesses and evaluates their testimony and demeanor. Hearsay is sometimes admitted. The Panel in turn renders its findings and recommendations to a 17-man Board (14 plus the 3-man Panel) who never sees or hears the witnesses. The Panel report is therefore hearsay. Once the Board makes its findings, it in turn sends its hearsay report to The Ohio Supreme Court for a final decision. Thus, The Ohio Supreme Court, likewise, never hears or sees the witnesses. The result, Plaintiff says, is triple or double hearsay, and therefore, is violative of due process of law, and that the statutory scheme for disciplinary attorneys in the State of Ohio is itself unconstitutional.

Therefore, for the reasons stated in the Paragraphs above, Plaintiff states that his constitutional rights as secured by the First, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments have been violated.

S. On September 1, 1972, The Supreme Court of Ohio entered an Order directing Plaintiff to show cause why the recommendations of the Board of Commissioners should not be confirmed and a disciplinary order entered. (A copy of the Order to Show Cause is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 22.) And then, on or about September 7, 1972, Defendant Chief Justice and Associate Justices, with the exception of Defendant, Louis

J. Schneider, Jr., who had previously disqualified himself from participating in the consideration of matters involving Plaintiff, did cause to be entered upon the Journal of The Supreme Court of Ohio, a per curiam Order suspending Plaintiff from exercising any further judicial duties until The Supreme Court of Ohio rendered its decision and judgment in the matter. (A copy of the per curiam Order is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 23.)

T. On September 8, 1972, by Order signed by Chief Justice C. William O'Neill, George S. Heitzler, Jr., was directed not to hear any further cases or any other matters pending in the Domestic Relations Division of the Common Pleas Court of Hamilton County, and was also directed not to perform any other judicial duties until The Supreme Court of Ohio renders its final decision. (A copy of the Order signed by Chief Justice C. William O'Neill is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 24.) Also, on September 8, 1972, by Order of The Supreme Court of Ohio, a retired Judge was assigned to fill the vacancy of the Respondent Judge Heitzler pending further action by The Supreme Court of Ohio. (A copy of the Order entered filling the vacancy is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 25.)

Plaintiff says that when The Supreme Court of Ohio entered its Order of September 8, 1972, prohibiting the Plaintiff from performing further judicial functions until its final decision in this matter, it violated the Plaintiff's constitutional rights in that he was not granted the due process of law requred by the Constitution of the United States.

Plaintiff was denied a hearing on the question of his removal, temporary or otherwise, and he was denied his statutory rights, assured him by the laws of the State of Ohio, Ohio Revised Code § 2701.11 and § 2701.12, and he was denied the due process required by the procedures set forth in the Rules of The Supreme Court of Ohio for which make specific provisions for the removal of Judges, Gov. R. VI.

The Supreme Court of Ohio in prohibiting Judge Heitzler from exercising further judicial functions relied on Article IV, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution. Plaintiff says that such conduct results in an unconstitutional application of the Ohio Constitution as applied to Plaintiff in violation of the United States Constitution and its Amendments. In the alternative, if said Article IV, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution allows a procedure such as was followed here for temporary suspension of the performance of judicial duties by a judge, without a hearing as was done in this case, then said Ohio Constitutional provision is itself unconstitutional because it violates the constitutional right to due process as required by the United States Constitution and its Amendments.

The action taken by The Ohio Supreme Court in prohibiting the Plaintiff from the performing further judicial duties until they rendered their decision and judgment in the case was taken without notice to the Plaintiff, without the right of Plaintiff to counsel, without the right of Plaintiff to a hearing, without the right of Plaintiff to be faced by his accusers, and was also taken in violation of the rights granted to him by the aforementioned statutes of the State of Ohio and the aforementioned Rules of Disciplinary Procedure adopted by The Supreme Court of Ohio.

Plaintiff says that as a result of the foregoing he has been denied his right to due process of law and of his constitutional guarantees in the disciplinary proceedings above mentioned, and therefore, those proceedings were void. Plaintiff further says that the entry of the Order of September 8, 1972, by the Ohio Supreme Court prohibiting him from further judicial action, being entered without notice or hearing, is not only a denial of *his* right to due process and *his* constitutional rights, but is an infringement on the right of the people of the State of Ohio to choose their judicial officers and have them continue to serve in a judicial capacity until and unless they are removed in accordance with the statutory laws of the State of Ohio and the Rules of Procedure in Grievance matters adopted by the Ohio Supreme Court.

U. On September 18, 1972, Plaintiff, *pro se*, filed with the Ohio Supreme Court a Motion for Reconsideration and for a hearing wherein he set forth various grounds which he believed entitled him a reconsideration of the Order previously entered, which Order removed him from acting in any judicial capacity. This Motion was denied. (A copy of the Motion to Reconsider is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 26.)

V. On October 17, 1972, counsel for Plaintiff filed a Motion to Quash and Dismiss the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners and Motion to Dismiss and Recuse Each and Every Member of the 17-Man Board of Commissioners of Grievances and Discipline which Motion set forth numerous grounds entitling Plaintiff, the Respondent, to the relief sought. (A copy of the Motion to Quash and

Dismiss and to Dismiss and Recuse is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 27.)

W. On October 20, 1972, Plaintiff filed with The Supreme Court of Ohio his Objections to the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners, wherein he set forth numerous grounds of objection to the various factual findings and conclusions of law rendered by the Board (and embodied in Exhibit 6). (A copy of the Objections to the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of the Board of Commissioners is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 28.)

IV. Facts—Case No. 172

A. On February 17, 1972, the same three members of the Cincinnati Bar Association who had previously filed charges against Plaintiff in Case No. 168, namely R. O. Klausmeyer, John J. Getgey and C. Donald Heile, filed with the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio a Complaint and Certificate against George S. Heitzler, Jr., Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Division of Domestic Relations) of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, wherein Five Charges were lodged against Respondent which allegedly constituted violations of various sections of the Ohio Revised Code, various Canons of Professional Ethics, and a violation of a Rule promulgated by The Supreme Court of Ohio. (A copy of the Complaint is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 29.)

B. Within the prescribed time period, Respondent filed an Answer with the Board of Commissioners

wherein he made certain admissions of fact and also denied that any of the admitted acts constituted violations of the Ohio Revised Code, the Canons of Professional Ethics, or any Rule promulgated by The Supreme Court of Ohio. Respondent also challenged the jurisdictional basis of the Complaint, and pleaded that double jeopardy barred the claims and that Relator was estopped to bring the charges. (A copy of the Answer is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 30.)

C. On May 5, 1972, a Formal Notice of Hearing was filed with the Board of Commissioners, said hearing to be held on May 31, 1972, regarding the charges filed in Case No. 172. (A copy of the Formal Notice is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 31.)

D. On May 11, 1972, Respondent, George S. Heitzler, Jr., filed a Motion to Dismiss with the Board of Commissioners wherein he again challenged the jurisdictional basis upon which Relator sought to act, and again pleaded double jeopardy. (A copy of the Motion to Dismiss is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 32.)

E. The Motion to Dismiss filed in Case No. 172 was denied.

F. On May 16, 1972, by Entry George D. Young was excused from service as a member of the Hearing Panel in Case No. 172 and Howard S. Lutz was appointed in his place. (A copy of the Entry is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and is marked as Exhibit 33.)

G. The Complaint and Answer designated as Case No. 172 came on for hearing before a Hearing Panel composed of Chairman Norton Webster, Howard Lutz, and John C. Sheppard on May 31, 1972, and a transcript of those hearings was taken and transcribed. (A certified copy of the transcript taken, Volumes I, II, and III is on file in the United States District Court at Cleveland.)

H. The brief on behalf of Respondent as to the merits of those charges embodied in Case No. 172 is now due, or due within a very short, although unspecified, time.

V.

A. At all times, and during all acts alleged in Paragraphs I, II, III A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, and W, and IV A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H the defendants have acted and are continuing to act pursuant to the Rules of Practice of The Supreme Court of Ohio, the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio (more particulary Rule V, Disciplinary Procedure [formerly Rule VIII of the Rules of the Supreme Court] among other Rules) all of which are promulgated by The Ohio Supreme Court, and also pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of Ohio, and Plaintiff therefore alleges that the defendants have in the past, and are continuing, and will continue to act under color of the aforementioned rules, regulations, and constitutional provision of the State of Ohio; and

B. Plaintiff alleges that the conduct to which he has been subjected and will continue to be subjected in Case No. 168 as detailed in Paragraphs III A, B,

C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, and W has deprived him of those rights secured to him by the First, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States as set out above, and such deprivations have arisen under color of state authority as more fully detailed in Paragraph V-A herein, all in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983; and

C. Plaintiff alleges that the conduct to which he has been subjected and will continue to be subjected in Case No. 172 as detailed in Paragraphs IV A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H has deprived him of the rights one has against placing himself in double jeopardy which right is secured to him by the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and further that the deprivation of that right as aforementioned has arisen under color of state authority as more fully detailed in Paragraph V-A herein, all in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983.

VI.

Plaintiff is suffering and will continue to suffer immediate and irreparable damage if the conduct of defendants is permitted to continue. Further, should the Ohio Supreme Court choose to render a final ruling on Case No. 168 and/or Case No. 172 during the pendency of the proceeding now before this Honorable Court, then this Court might be without jurisdiction to redress those civil and constitutional rights sought to be redressed. To permit The Supreme Court of Ohio to render a final ruling in either or both of the disciplinary proceedings might render the proceedings before this Court moot. Finally, although Plaintiff has not been deprived of his salary, he has been stripped of

every other vestige of his authority as Judge, his reputation in the community is tarnished, and the Judiciary in Hamilton County is suspect. The harm is therefore immediate and irreparable.

VII.

Plaintiff alleges that he has no adequate remedy at law. No amount of monetary damage can reinstate Plaintiff to his rightful position as duly elected and acting Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio. Only the equitable relief sought herein will correct the wrongs Plaintiff seeks to redress.

VIII.

Plaintiff says that the indefinite suspension to which he is subjected is unduly harsh and therefore the actions taken against Plaintiff are an attempt:

1. To chill his First and Fourteenth Amendments' rights of freedom of speech and freedom of association; and

2. Are also in violation of Plaintiff's rights to due process of law as embodied in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, and in violation of the Sixth and Ninth Amendments; and

3. Are taken under color of state authority in bad faith and to harass and otherwise intimidate Plaintiff from acting as Judge.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Honorable Court grant the following relief:

1. That this Court assume jurisdiction of this cause.

2. That this Honorable Court immediately issue a temporary restraining order pending the final hearing and determination of this cause, restraining Defendants, or any one of them, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors and all persons and agencies in active concert and participation with them, including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of The Supreme Court of Ohio, from taking any further action in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172.

3. That this Honorable Court immediately issue a preliminary injunction pending the final hearing and determination of this cause, enjoining Defendants, or any one of them, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, and all persons and agencies in active concert and participation with them including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Board of Commssioners on Grievances and Discipline of The Supreme Court of Ohio, from taking any further action in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172.

4. That this Honorable Court enter a preliminary injunction directed to the Defendants compelling them to vacate the Order entered September 8, 1972, which removed Plaintiff as Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton

County, Ohio (Exhibit 24) and also; to set aside and vacate the Per Curiam Opinion entered September 7, 1972, suspending Plaintiff from acting as Judge (Exhibit 23).

5. That this Honorable Court enter a preliminary injunction directed to Defendants compelling them to reinstate Plaintiff as the duly elected and acting Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio.

6. That the Order entered September 8, 1972, appointing Frank W. Nicholas to fill the vacancy created by the removal of Plaintiff as Judge, be vacated and Judge Nicholas be discharged from acting further as Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio, (Exhibit 25).

7. That this Honorable Court grant a permanent injunction enjoining the Defendants, or any one of them, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, and all persons and agencies in active concert with them, including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Board of Commissioners on Grievances of The Supreme Court of Ohio from taking any further action whatsoever in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172, and that the preliminary injunction reinstating Plaintiff as Judge and removing his substitute be made a permanent injunction.

8. That this Honorable Court grant such other, additional or alternative relief as may seem necessary and equitable.

9. That this Honorable Court grant the Plaintiff his costs herein.

GEORGE S. HEITZLER, JR.
Plaintiff

STANLEY E. PREISER
JOHN B. CARRICO
DAVID C. MCCUE

PREISER & WILSON
1012 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Post Office Box 2506
Charleston, West Virginia

Counsel for Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

STATE OF OHIO)
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) SS:

GEORGE S. HEITZLER, being first duly cautioned and sworn, states that he is the Plaintiff herein; and that the facts and allegations contained in the foregoing Complaint are true, except where they are based upon information and belief, and where they are based upon information and belief, he believes them to be true.

George S. Heitzler

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 24 day of October, 1972.

Pete J. Donohue
Notary Public, State of Ohio

Pete J. Donohue
Notary Public, Hamilton
County, Ohio

My Commission Expires
May 21, 1973

Filed Oct. 24, 1972 at 5:15 O'clock P.M.
Dominic J. Cimino, Clerk
U. S. District Court, N. D. O.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

JUDGE GEORGE S. HEITZLER, Jr.
Division of Domestic Relations,
Court of Common Pleas,
Hamilton County, Ohio
Hamilton County Court House
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Plaintiff,

vs.

Civil No. C72-1140
Judge Battisti

C. WILLIAM O'NEILL, Chief Justice,
LOUIS J. SCHNEIDER, JR., Associate Justice,
J. J. P. CORRIGAN, Associate Justice,
LLOYD O. BROWN, Associate Justice,
THOMAS M. HERBERT, Associate Justice,
LEONARD J. STERN, Associate Justice,
ROBERT E. LEACH, Associate Justice,
and all members of the bench of the
Supreme Court of Ohio
State House Annex
Columbus, Ohio 43215 Defendants.

MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER; MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION; MOTION FOR A PERMANENT INJUNCTION

PREISER & WILSON
STANLEY E. PREISER
JOHN B. CARRICO
DAVID C. McCUE
Counsel for Plaintiff

PREISER & WILSON
1012 Kanawha Boulevard, East
P. O. Box 2506
Charleston, West Virginia 25329

Comes now the plaintiff, George S. Heitzler, Jr., by counsel, and moves this Honorable Court to grant the following relief:

1. That this Court assume jurisdiction of this cause.

2. That this Honorable Court immediately issue a temporary restraining order pending the final hearing and determination of this cause, restraining Defendants, or any one of them their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors and all persons and agencies in active concert and participation with them, including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Assocation, and the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio, from taking any further action in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172.

3. That this Honorable Court immediately issue a preliminary injunction pending the final hearing and determination of this cause, enjoining Defendants, or any one of them, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors and all persons and agencies in active concert and participation with them, including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio, from taking any further action in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172.

4. That this Honorable Court enter a preliminary injunction directed to the Defendants compelling them to vacate the Order entered September 8, 1972, which removed Plaintiff as Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio (Exhibit 24) and also, to set aside and

vacate the Per Curiam Opinion entered September 7, 1972, suspending Plaintiff from acting as Judge.

5. That this Honorable Court enter a preliminary injunction directed to Defendants compelling them to reinstate Plaintiff as the duly elected and acting Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio.

6. That the Order entered September 8, 1972, appointing Frank W. Nicholas to fill the vacancy created by the removal of Plaintiff as Judge, be vacated and Judge Nicholas be discharged from acting further as Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio (Exhibit 25).

7. That this Honorable Court grant a permanent injunction enjoining the Defendants, or any one of them, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, and all persons and agencies in active concert with them, including but not limited to the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Board of Commissioners on Grievances of the Supreme Court of Ohio from taking any further action whatsoever in disciplinary proceeding Case No. 168 and disciplinary proceeding Case No. 172, and that the preliminary injunction reinstating Plaintiff as Judge and removing his substitute be made a permanent injunction.

8. That this Honorable Court grant such other, additional or alternative relief as may seem necessary and equitable.

9. That this Honorable Court grant the Plaintiff his costs herein.

The grounds in support of this motion are as follows:

1. Plaintiff hereby adopts by reference as though fully set out herein, the Complaint and Exhibits previously filed herein with this Honorable Court which fully states the facts and reasons which Plaintiff contends entitle him to the relief sought herein; and

2. Plaintiff submits that the entire disciplinary proceedings and the Order leading to his indefinite suspension as a Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio were violative of Plaintiff's constitutional rights secured to him by the First, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

3. Such proceedings were conducted pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by The Supreme Court of Ohio, and pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution, and Plaintiff therefore says he has been deprived of the aforementioned constitutional and civil rights under color of state auhtority and in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983; and

4. Plaintiff is suffering and will continue to suffer immediate and irreparable damage if the conduct of defendants is permitted to continue. Further, should The Ohio Supreme Court choose to render a final ruling on Case No. 168 and/or Case No. 172 during the pendency of the proceeding now before this Honorable Court, then this Court might be without jurisdiction to redress those civil and constitutional rights sought to be redressed. To permit the Supreme Court of Ohio to render a final ruling in either or both of the dis-

ciplinary proceedings might render the proceedings before this Court moot. Finally, although Plaintiff has not been deprived of his salary, he has been stripped of every other vestige of his authority as Judge, his reputation in the community is tarnished, and the Judiciary in Hamilton County is suspect. The harm is therefore immediate and irreparable.

5. Plaintiff alleges that he has no adequate remedy at law. No amount of monetary damage can reinstate Plaintiff to his rightful position as duly elected and acting Judge of the Division of Domestic Relations of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio. Only the equitable relief sought herein will correct the wrongs Plaintiff seeks to redress.

6. If the temporary restraining order and/or the preliminary injunction are/is granted, the injuries to Defendants would be inconsequential.

STANLEY E. PREISER
One of Counsel for Plaintiff

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P. O. Box 2506
Charleston, West Virginia 25329

Of Counsel

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

JUDGE GEORGE S. HEITZLER, JR.
Division of Domestic Relations,
Court of Common Pleas,
Hamilton County, Ohio

Plaintiff

vs.

C. WILLIAM O'NEILL, Chief Justice,
LOUIS J. SCHNEIDER, JR., Associate
Justice, J. J. P. Corrigan,
Associate Justice, LLOYD O. BROWN,
Associate Justice, THOMAS M. HERBERT,
Associate Justice, LEONARD J. STERN,
Associate Justice, ROBERT E. LEACH,
Associate Justice, All members of
the bench of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Defendants

BATTISTI, C. J.

Filed
Oct. 25 10:14 A.M. '72
Clerk U.S. District Court
Northern District of Ohio

Temporary
Restraining
Order

This day came the Plaintiff by Preiser and Wilson, and Stanley E. Preiser and David McCue, his attor-

neys, and presented to the Court his verified Complaint, the exhibits attached thereto and his Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction and Permanent Injunction.

From the pleadings and exhibits and the Motion filed herein, it appears to the Court that the Defendants have committed, are committing, and will commit acts as set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint and will continue to do so unless restrained by this Court, and that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result to Plaintiff before this matter can be set down for further hearing;

And it further appearing to the Court that this is a proper case for the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order without notice.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED:

1. That the Defendants and all persons acting in concert with them be and they are hereby temporarily restrained from taking any further action in disciplinary proceedings against the Plaintiff, Judge George S. Heitzler, Jr. in Disciplinary Proceeding Case No. 168 and Disciplinary Proceeding Case No. 172.

2. That the Defendants are hereby temporarily restrained from enforcing their order of September 8, 1972, which in effect prohibits the Plaintiff from exercising his judicial functions.

IT IS, FURTHER, ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that this Temporary Restraining Order take effect immediately without bond.

ORDERED that this Order will expire ten (10) days after entry unless within such time this order has been extended, and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction be heard before the Honorable Chief Judge Frank J. Battisti, at the United States Court House in Cleveland, Ohio, on the 2nd day of November at 10:00 o'clock A.M., Eastern Standard Time.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order, and of Plaintiff's Complaint, together with proper summons issued by the Clerk of this Court, be immediately served by the U. S. Marshal, or otherwise, upon the Defendants.

FRANK J. BATTISTI
Chief Judge

I hereby certify that the annexed instrument is a true and correct copy of the original on file in my office.

Attest: DOMINIC J. CMINO, Clerk
U. S. District Court
Northern District of Ohio

By: U. Fast
Deputy Clerk

A-41

No. 72-2062

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

HONORABLE C. WILLIAM O'NEILL, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, et al.

Petitioners,

vs.

HONORABLE FRANK J. BATTISTI, Chief Judge of The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

Respondent.

Filed
Oct. 27, 1972
James A. Higgins,
Clerk

Order

This matter has come on to be considered on petitioners' application for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition, and on petitioners' motion to stay the temporary restraining order heretofore issued by the District Court and to stay further proceedings therein. The order of the District Court sought to be stayed was issued by respondent herein in cause No. C72-1140 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and restrained the defendants therein, who are the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio, from taking any further action against the plaintiff in the

District Court action in Disciplinary Proceeding Case No. 168 and Disciplinary Proceeding Case No. 172 on the docket of the Supreme Court of Ohio. It appearing to the Court that said actions are scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court of Ohio on November 15, 1972, and it further appearing from the petition and exhibits thereto herein that the issues presented are identical to the issues presented herein, and it further appearing that the doctrine of abstention, adherence to which said doctrine is favored by this Court whenever possible, requires that the issues in this case which finds its roots in the judicial system of the State of Ohio be first resolved by the Ohio Supreme Court, and it further appearing that the compensation of the said Heitzler continues and is unaffected by any order heretofore entered by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the Petition For Writ of Mandamus and/or Prohibition be and it hereby is set for hearing before this Court on November 16, 1972, and it is further ORDERED that all further proceedings in cause No. C72-1140 on the docket of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio be and they hereby are stayed until November 16, 1972, or until the further order of this Court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

JOHN W. PECK
Circuit Judge

A-43

No. 72-2062

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

HONORABLE C. WILLIAM O'NEILL,
Chief Justice of Ohio, et al.,
Petitioners,

vs.

HONORABLE FRANK J. BATTISTI,
Chief Judge, United States
District Court for the Northern
District of Ohio.
Respondent.

On Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Prohibition

Filed
Nov. 10, 1972
James A. Higgins,
Clerk

Before: PHILLIPS, Chief Judge, and MILLER and LIVELY, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM. This case is before the Court on a petition for writ of mandamus or prohibition, filed by the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio against the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. By authority of the All Writs Statute, 28 U.S. Sec. 1651, we grant the writ of mandamus as prayed in the petition.

Disciplinary action is in process before the Supreme Court of Ohio involving George S. Heitzler, Jr., a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County, Ohio, at Cincinnati. Judge Heitzler has been charged

by the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio with numerous violations of the Canons of Judicial Ethics. The Board also has recommended that Judge Heitzler be suspended indefinitely from the practice of law.

On September 8, 1972, the Chief Justice of Ohio entered an order, pursuant to the authorization of his court, to the effect that Judge Heitzler hear no further cases or other matters pending in the Domestic Relations Division of the Common Pleas Court of Hamilton County nor perform any other judicial duties until the Supreme Court has rendered its final decision and judgment in the pending matter. See *Cincinnati Bar Association* v. *Heitzler*, 31 Ohio St.2d 187 (1972). On the same day the Chief Justice assigned a retired State Common Pleas Judge to sit temporarily in the Domestic Relations Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County.

Judge Heitzler filed action No. C72-1140 in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, under the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983, naming as defendants the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the State Supreme Court. On October 25, 1972, the United States District Court issued an ex parte temporary restraining order, restraining the Justices of the State Supreme Court "and all persons acting in concert with them" from enforcing the Supreme Court's order of September 8, 1972, or from taking any further disciplinary action against Judge Heitzler.

The petition for writ of mandamus or prohibition was filed in this Court on October 27, 1972. On the

same date a judge of this Court entered an order staying all further proceedings in the District Court in action No. C72-1140 until November 16, 1972, or until the further order of this Court. This order recites that a hearing is scheduled before the Supreme Court of Ohio on November 15, 1972, that the issues in the State proceeding are identical and that the compensation of Judge Heitzler continues and is unaffected by any order heretofore entered by the State Supreme Court. The order further recites that the doctrine of abstention "requires that the issues in this case which finds its roots in the judicial system of the State of Ohio be first resolved by the Ohio Supreme Court. . . ."

In November 1, 1972, Judge Heitzler filed a motion to intervene in the proceedings in this Court. This motion was granted. Judge Heitzler also has filed in this Court a motion to dissolve, vacate, dismiss or modify the stay order heretofore entered by this Court and a brief in support of his motion. This motion is hereby denied.

This Court is of the view that the issuance of a temporary restraining order by the District Court under the facts of this case was improvident, and that the District Court should have abstained from interfering with the pending proceedings in the Supreme Court of Ohio. As said by the Supreme Court in *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co.* v. *Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers*, 398 U.S. 281, 297:

> "Any doubts as to the propriety of a federal injunction against state court proceedings should be resolved in favor of permitting the state courts to proceed in an orderly fashion to finally determine the controversy. The explicit wording

> of Sec. 2283 itself implies as much, and the fundamental principle of a dual system of courts leads inevitably to that conclusion."

It is clear that venue does not lie in the Northern District of Ohio in the action filed there by Judge Heitzler against the Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Under 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1391(b), a civil action must be brought in the judicial district where all the defendants reside or where the claim arose. The official residence of the Supreme Court of Ohio is in the place where it performs its official duties, that is, Columbus, the State Capitol and the seat of State Government. Under Ohio law, regular sessions of the Supreme Court are held only in Columbus. See O.R.C. Sec. 2503.33. Columbus is in the Southern District of Ohio.

> "Where a public official is a party to an action in his official capacity, he resides in the judicial district where he maintains his official residence, that is, where he performs his official duties." 1 Moore's Federal Practice 1487-88.

Judge Heitzler relies upon 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1392(a) as making the Northern District of Ohio a proper venue in this case. We hold that Sec. 1392(a) is not applicable in the present case.

A writ of mandamus will issue as prayed in the petition, *Holub Industries, Inc.* v. *Wyche*, 290 F.2d 852 (4th Cir. 1961).[1] The United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio is directed:

(1) To vacate and withdraw the temporary restraining order of October 25, 1972, enjoining the Ohio

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[1]It is apparent that the court for purposes of issuing the writ of mandamus equated a "lack of venue" with a "lack of jurisdiction." 290 F.2d at 854.

Supreme Court from taking any further action in disciplinary proceedings against Judge George S. Heitzler, Jr. and from enforcing the order of the Supreme Court of September 8, 1972; and

(2) To dismiss the action filed by Judge Heitzler against the Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio, No. C72-1140, for lack of venue.

We are aware, as the court was in *Holub*, *supra*, that the writ of mandamus is an extraordinary remedy "to be used reluctantly and only in exceptional cases." In this case we regard the circumstances to be both exceptional and extraordinary.